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Pacific Islands Fishery News

Newsletter of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council

Fall 2000

Pacific Nations Adopt Tuna Treaty

Fishing nations from throughout the Pacific adopted an agreement on Sept. 4 to establish an international fishery commission to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of tuna and other highly migratory fish stocks in the central and western Pacific.

"The adoption of the convention was a culmination of five years of long negotiations on some very difficult issues," said Ambassador Satya Nandan of Fiji, chairman of the Multilateral High-Level Conference (MHLC) on Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific. "It reflects a fair balance of interests, in particular between developing Pacific countries, in whose national areas large stocks of tuna fish are found, and distant-water fishing states, which fish in the Central and

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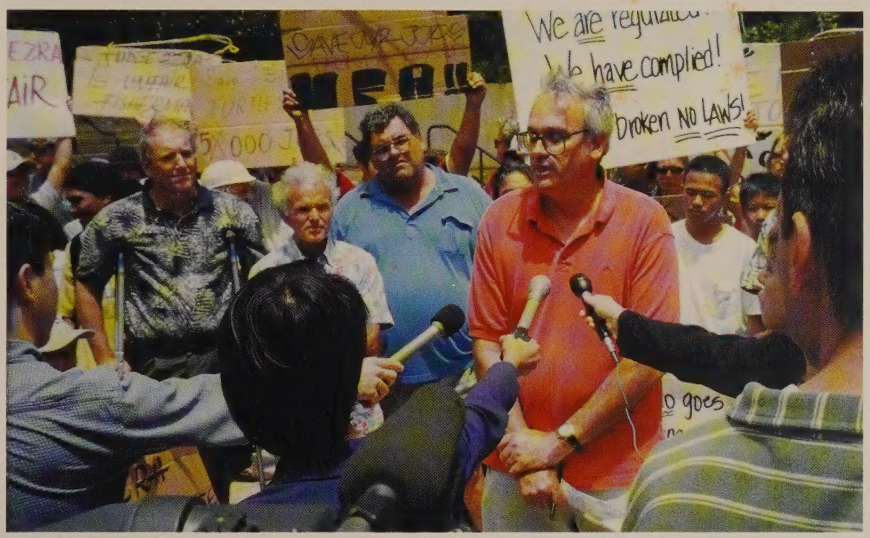

Longliners and their families as well as seafood dealers, ship chandlers and representatives of Hawaii's restaurant industry met collectively outside the US district court in Honolulu to protest Judge Ezra's June ruling, which would have shut down virtually the entire Hawaii longline fishery.

Judge Closes Hawaii Swordfish Fishery

On Aug. 4, Judge David Ezra of the US District Court in Honolulu issued an order that essentially closes the Hawaii swordfish fishery pending a comprehensive environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Pelagics Fishery Management Plan (FMP), under which Hawaii-based longline vessels operate. According to the plaintiffs, the Center for Marine Conservation and the Turtle Island Restoration Network represented by Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund, the EIS for the FMP prepared in 1994 does not adequately analyze the impacts of the fishery.

Judge Ezra's order divides the Hawaii's longline fishing grounds into three areas: It prohibits all Hawaii-based longline fishing activities throughout the year in traditional swordfish grounds located between 28°N and 44°N latitude, from 150°W to 168°W longitude (designated as Area A). Longline is allowed on either side of this prohibited area (jointly designated as Area B), i.e, between 28°N and 44°N latitude, from 137°W to 150°W longitude, and in waters between 28°N and 44°N latitude from 168°W to 173°E longitude. However, only 154 sets may be made in Area B from Aug. 10 through Dec. 31, 2000, and only 77 sets from Jan. 1 through March 14, 2001. No longline fishing is allowed between March 15 and May 31. In addition, 100 percent observer coverage is required in Area B.

Between the equator and 28°N latitude, from 137°W to 173°E longitude (Area C), longline fishing is allowed but the directed take of

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Judge Closes Hawaii Swordfish Fishery *continued from page 1*

swordfish (targeting) is prohibited. To ensure that the prohibition is carried out, the use of lightsticks by Hawaii-based longliners in this area is forbidden and the profit from the incidental take of swordfish by Hawaii-based longliners targeting tuna in this area (calculated to be 20 percent of the gross revenue of the swordfish sale) must be donated to an IRS-approved charity. Additionally, 10 percent observer coverage is required by Sept. 21, 2000, and 20 percent observer coverage is required by Nov. 7. As with Area B, no longline fishing by Hawaii-based vessels will be allowed in Area C from March 15 through May 31.

The Aug. 4 order modifies an order issued June 23 by the Judge that would have led to the closure of virtually the entire longline fishery. That order included a different set of longline closed areas, 100 percent observer coverage and restrictions in the area where longline fishing would have been allowed, i.e., a cap of 636 sets annually and a four-hour maximum rest time. Both the National Marine Fisheries Service (the defendant) and the Hawaii Longline Association (defendant-intervener) motioned for reconsideration of that order, which resulted in the Aug. 4 order.

The June and August orders modify the judge's initial injunction on the Hawaii-based longline fishery, issued November 1999 and implemented in December 1999, which closed 1.2 million square miles of fishing grounds to Hawaii-based longliners in essentially the same area that is now designated Area A.

Longliners anticipate that additional restrictions may come. At an informal meeting on Sept. 7, the judge said the interim emergency rule issued by NMFS in the Aug. 25, 2000, *Federal Register*, does not restrict the setting of "shallow" gear by Hawaii-based longliners and asked NMFS to restrict this fishing method.

The stated intent of all the judge's orders is to reduce adverse impacts to sea turtles resulting from the activities of the Hawaii-based longline fishery. But fishermen are baffled by the judge's actions. First, the Biological Opinion, which the judge ruled was legally adequate in October 1999, determined the take of sea turtles by the Hawaii-based longline fishery to be within acceptable limits. Second, scientists say Ezra's closure will have no significant impact on turtle populations, as the Hawaii longline fishery accounts for only 3 percent of the pelagic fishing effort in the Central and Western Pacific. Third, the injunction penalizes fishermen for the deficiency of the EIS.

Tuna Treaty *continued from page 1*

Western Pacific."

The two-thirds vote required for adoption of the convention was cleared with 19 nations voting in favor; Japan and Korea in opposition; and China, France and Tonga abstaining. The 24 nations, as well as other Pacific territories and fishing entities, had been meeting at the Hawaii Convention Center in Honolulu since August 30 in the seventh and final session of MHLC.

Japan expressed concern about the decision-making process, the northern boundary, the observer program and dispute settlement, among other issues. Korea said there are many outstanding issues that the convention does not address.

China argued against membership status by fishing entities. Such membership has been proposed for Taiwan. Tonga said decision-making process was unacceptable, as a body of three can veto a majority consensus.

The convention shall enter into force 30 days after the deposit of instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession by three States north of 20°N latitude (i.e., the distant-water fishing nations) and seven States situated south of the 20°N latitude (i.e., the Pacific island nations in whose waters the fishing predominantly occurs).

The western and central Pacific produces two-thirds of the tuna caught worldwide, with an annual landed value of $1.5 to $2 billion.

A preparatory conference will convene within the year so that functioning of the commission can begin immediately upon the convention's entry into force.

Among key issues resolved by the delegations during the final MHLC session were the following:

Decision-making. Decisions of the commission will be made by consensus as a general rule. If consensus

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Tuna Treaty *continued from page 2*

cannot be reached, decisions by voting on questions of procedure will be taken by a majority of those present and voting. Decisions on question of substance shall be taken by a three-fourths majority of the members of the South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency present and voting and a three-fourths majority of non-members of the South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency present and voting and provided further that in no circumstances shall a proposal be defeated by two or fewer votes in either chamber.

Taiwan. Fishing entities, such as Taiwan, whose vessels fish for highly migratory fish stocks in the convention area may, by written instrument, agree to be bound by the regime established by the convention. Any such fishing entity shall participate in the work of the commission, including decision-making on matters stated in the convention.

Participation by territories. American Samoa, French Polynesia, Guam, New Caledonia, Northern Mariana Islands, Tokelau and Wallis and Futuna are entitled to be present and to speak at the meetings of the commission and its subsidiary bodies. Separate rules of procedure will be developed by the contracting parties on the extent and nature of participation by these territories.

Boundaries. The northern and western boundaries of the convention area are not fixed, but will encompass the range of the stocks within the Pacific Ocean. It is not intended to include waters in South-East Asia that are not part of the Pacific Ocean, nor is it intended to include the waters of the South China Sea. The southern and eastern boundaries of the convention area are fixed as follows: from the south coast of Australia due south along the 141° meridian of east longitude to its intersection with the 55° parallel of south latitude; thence due east along the 55° parallel of south latitude to its intersection with the 150° meridian of east longitude; thence due south along the 150° meridian of east longitude to its intersection with the 60° parallel of south latitude; thence due east along the 60° parallel of south latitude to its intersection with the 130° meridian of west longitude; thence due north along the 130° meridian of west longitude to its intersection with the 4° parallel of south latitude; thence due west along the 4° parallel of south latitude to its intersection with the 150° meridian of west longitude; thence due north along the 150° meridian of west longitude.

Japan and China head delegates explained their concerns about the convention to the press on the final day of the conference. Ambassador Satya Nandan of Fiji (conference chair), US head delegate Tucker Scully (Department of State) and the chair of the South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency (head delegate for Australia) responded that the convention fairly balances the interests of the developing Pacific island states and the distant-water fishing nations.

Participants of the seventh session of MHLC, held Aug. 30 to Sept. 5 at the Hawaii Convention Center. After years of negotiations, 19 nations adopted the treaty to jointly manage highly migratory fish stocks in the western and central Pacific; three nations abstained; and Japan and China voted in opposition. On the final day 11 nations signed the treaty. It is now deposited in New Zealand were it remains open for signatures.

Derelict Fishing Gear Solutions

Fishing industry representatives from Hawaii, Alaska, Washington, California, Florida and the South Pacific met July 7-11 in Honolulu to develop recommended actions to reduce the amount of derelict fishing gear in the ocean environment. Industry was one of several interest groups participating in the International Marine Debris Conference on Derelict Fishing Gear and the Ocean Environment.

While derelict fishing gear accounts for only 5 percent of marine debris, its potential impacts on protected species and coral reefs has been of increasing concern.

The majority of the industry participants agreed that effort rationalization should be explored as a mitigation tool and that government should take steps to allow its use. Individual quotas (IQs) and individual transferable quotas (ITQs), which Congress currently prohibits, were highlighted as measures worth pursuing.

"With rationalization, fishermen focus on trying to minimize costs, including gear lost," noted Brent Paine, executive director, United Catcher Boats, Washington. "A quota-based system is one solution."

James Coe, acting science and research director, National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Washington, agreed. An open-access, derby-style fishery contributes to lost fishing gear by promoting risk taking by fishermen, he said.

Among other recommended action items identified by industry representatives was education. The public, resource managers, administrators, legislators, fishing industry and conservation organizations, especially in developing countries, should be informed about the true character and impacts of marine debris, the group noted.

"I didn't know derelict fishing gear from Alaska was ending up on Hawaii atolls," Paine confessed. "I don't think that the average Alaskan fisherman knows that. We need an educational program for fishermen to know that."

Lindsay Chapman, fisheries development adviser for the Secretariat of Pacific Community, concurred. There is a lack of awareness in the South Pacific of derelict fishing gear, he said.

The conference organizers have planned quarterly meetings to monitor progress made on these and other action items recommended by industry as well as by the working groups focused on prevention and legal issues, reducing impacts of gear, source identification, monitoring and removal, and education and outreach.

The NOAA Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary sponsored the Marine Debris Conference. Contributors included the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, National Marine Fisheries Service, State of Hawaii, City and County of Honolulu, Center for Marine Conservation, US State Department, US Coast Guard, US Environmental Protection Agency and Hawaii Longline Association, among others. For more information on the conference activities and outcomes visit the National Marine Sanctuary Web site at www.hihwnms.nos.noaa.gov/.

The final day of the International Marine Debris Conference is being broadcast by Olelo: The Corporation for Community Television. Viewers on the Hawaiian island of Oahu can watch Part I on channel 54 at 8 p.m. Sept. 23; 3 p.m. Sept. 30 and noon Oct. 2. Part II can be viewed on channel 54 at 11 a.m. Oct. 1; 4:30 p.m. Oct. 7; 6 p.m. Oct. 17; and 5 p.m. Oct. 27.

Clinton's Initiative Stalls Coral Reef Plan, Threatens NWHI Fisheries

The Council's draft Coral Reef Ecosystem Fishery Management Plan (FMP) is an exceptionally well written plan and would normally have been forwarded for approval for formal public review, according to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) headquarters in Washington, DC. However, President Clinton's initiative for coral reefs in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI), announced in May of this year, has put the plan under unusual scrutiny and created angst among NWHI fishermen and related seafood representatives.

Unlike the President's initiative, which was fast-tracked for completion within 90 days (with a cursory 13-day public information and comment period orchestrated by the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)), the Council's Coral Reef Ecosystem FMP is the culmination of five years of research, development and extensive public input as well as multi- agency teamwork. It is the first federal FMP to incorporate the ecosystem principles of fisheries management proposed by the NMFS Ecosystem Principles Advisory Panel, as mandated by Congress. Additionally, the Coral Reef Ecosystem FMP is intended to safeguard against the potential for unregulated fisheries occurring in the coral reef ecosystems in federal waters throughout the Western Pacific Region (Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands and the remote US Pacific Islands, as well as Hawaii).

Nearly a year has passed since the Council first submitted the draft FMP to NMFS headquarters in November 1999 for

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Members Needed for Advisory Panel

The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council is seeking members to serve on its Advisory Panel for the 2001–2002 term. The Advisory Panel meets about once or twice per year to provide the Council with information and guidance in the development and implementation of fishery management plans. Members serve for a two-year period, which begins January 1st. The position is voluntary (not paid), but members will be reimbursed for expenses related to their participation at meetings. Persons interested in serving on the Advisory Panel may choose to be on one of the following sub-panels: Commercial Fisheries; Recreational and Charter Fisheries; Indigenous and Subsistence Fisheries; and Ecosystem and Habitat.

Membership is limited, and applicants will be considered based on the following criteria: history of fishing; involvement in the fishing industry, fishing clubs or organizations concerned with conservation, management, marine or fisheries issues; willingness to play an active role in fisheries management; and ability to dedicate time for fishery document review and meeting attendance.

The enclosed Advisory Panel application form may be submitted to the Council by mail or fax. The form may also be obtained on the Council's Web site at www.wpcouncil.org and returned by e-mail to nmfs.wprfmc@noaa.gov. Persons wishing to submit an application but who are unable to meet the **Sept. 30 deadline** due to late arrival of this newsletter are asked to please notify the Council within five days of receipt of the newsletter.

The Council is one of eight US regional councils organized under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976. Its jurisdiction includes fisheries in federal waters (generally 3 to 200 miles) surrounding American Samoa, Guam, Hawaii, the Northern Mariana Islands and the US Pacific Island possessions of Johnston and Midway Atolls, Kingman Reef and Palmyra, Jarvis, Howland, Baker and Wake Islands. The Council has 16 members, who represent the fishing communities and government agencies of each of the four major island areas. A Scientific and Statistical Committee, the Advisory Panel and diverse ad hoc groups recommend management strategies and provide advice on all aspects of the region's fisheries.

The Western Pacific Council was the first to advocate for inclusion of highly migratory species (particularly, tuna) in the Magnuson Act. It was the first to ban high-seas driftnet fishing and was among the early practitioners of limited entry fishery programs. The Council pioneered the use of vessel monitoring by satellite and worked with allies in Congress to amend the Magnuson Act so as to protect the indigenous rights of native Pacific Islanders. The Council contributes substantially to America's understanding of the Pacific as a single resource to be managed cooperatively by all who share its use.

Clinton's Initiative *continued from page 4*

informal review to ensure all components have been completed prior to submission for approval to conduct formal public hearings under the National Environmental Protection Act (which CEQ oversees). NMFS responded with requests for additional information on existing components. A revised draft with the additional information was submitted in December. NMFS again responded with requests for more information on existing components.

In January 2000, the Council convened a joint meeting of the Hawaii members of eight advisory groups that had worked on development of the FMP so they could discuss NWHI coral reef ecosystem management and ancillary issues. This was followed in April with a massive joint meeting of the full membership of the nine advisory groups that had worked on development of the FMP, i.e., some 90 advisors from throughout the Western Pacific Region. In June, the Council reviewed the recommendations from the joint advisory group meeting and the National Action Plan to Conserve Coral Reefs (adopted in March), which calls for the designation of 20 percent of coral reef habitat as no-take MPAs within 10 years. The Council subsequently modified its preferred alternatives to include designation of 14 percent of NWHI coral reef habitat as no-take MPAs in federal waters of the NWHI (i.e., 0 to 200 miles from shore at Midway and 3 to 200 miles in other areas). Among other measures, the Council's modified preferred alternatives also include indigenous fishing provisions, e.g., the access rights of Native Hawaiians to the NWHI for traditional and customary practices in MPAs where limited fishing would be allowed and the reservation for Native Hawaiians of 20% of any quotas that might be established in the future to limit the commercial exploitation of the coral reef resources in Hawaii. The revised draft Coral Reef Ecosystem FMP was resubmitted on Aug. 9 to NMFS for comments on its completeness to go forward with formal public review. While the Council expected a timely response from NMFS, more than a month has passed without the comments being sent.

The first public meeting on the President's NWHI coral reef initiative was held July 21 in Washington, DC, to enable Washington-based conservation organizations an opportunity to participate in the public "visioning sessions." Meetings in Hawaii were held July 24–Aug. 1, with the public comment period ending Aug. 2.

Meanwhile, fishermen operating in existing limited entry NWHI fisheries are concerned about the President's initiative, and some have reported that their markets are now unstable due to the uncertainty of an anticipated announcement by the President on the future of the NWHI. At public visioning sessions conducted as part of the President's initiate, environmental groups recommended that up to 75 percent of the NWHI waters from 0 to 100 fathoms depth be designated as a no-take MPA. Such designation would close existing limited entry bottomfish and lobster fisheries, closing the businesses of about two dozen vessels operating around islands that span a thousand miles. Noting that much smaller island chains support hundreds of vessels, one fishery representative asked: "If the existing NWHI fishery management regime isn't good enough, then what is?"

NMFS Closes NWHI Lobster Fishery

On June 26, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) closed the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) commercial fishery for the remainder of the year 2000. The announcement came five days before the fishery was scheduled to open.

The management regime for the limited entry fishery includes bank-specific harvest limits that are calculated based on 13 percent of the exploitable population. While calculating the year 2000 estimates, NMFS scientists expressed an increasing level of uncertainty in their computations. A shortcoming in the understanding of the dynamics of the NWHI lobster populations and the lack of appreciable rebuilding of certain lobster populations also led to the decision to close the fishery as a precautionary measure, NMFS reports.

Under current rules, NMFS is supposed to announce the harvest guideline by the end of February. In early February of this year, NMFS estimated the total exploitable population of lobster to be 1.5 million, with a harvest guideline of 194,000. The Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) reviewed the NMFS assessment in late February and suggested that the calculation be bias-adjusted, resulting in a more conservative exploitable population estimate of 1 million lobsters, with a harvest guideline of 130,000 lobsters. The SSC found no evidence of overfishing and reaffirmed that the harvest rate policy defined in the fishery management plan is precautionary. In mid-March, NMFS provided its own bias-adjusted estimates for Necker, Maro and Gardner Pinnacles as 679,000 lobsters (no estimates provided for the remaining NWHI, i.e., Area 4) with a harvest guideline of 88,270.

Concerned about the gap in data on the NWHI lobster fishery that will result from the emergency closure, the Council has urged NMFS to conduct experimental fishing, including Area 4, during this period. NMFS says that an experimental fishery will likely not occur until 2001 and Area 4 may not be included.

107th Council, 75th SSC Meeting Tentative Agendas

The 107th meeting of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council will be held at the Ala Moana Hotel, Honolulu, in November. The tentative agenda for key items is as follows:

NOV. 28 Standing Committee Meetings

NOV. 29 Enforcement: Cooperative enforcement agreements; **VMS:** National vessel monitoring system; **Ecosystem and Habitat:** Draft Coral Reef Ecosystem Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and draft environmental impact statement, President's initiative for the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) coral reefs; **Indigenous Fishery Issues:** Community development program/demonstration projects, marine conservation plans, cultural take of Hawaiian green sea turtle, local observer program

NOV. 30 Precious Coral Fisheries: 1999 framework amendment regarding new harvesting requirements, 2000 framework adjustment regarding Hawaiian Islands exploratory area quota increase, new precious coral bed definition and associated permitting; **Transition Zone Chlorophyll Front:** presentation by Jeff Polovina, NMFS Honolulu Lab; **Pelagics Fisheries:** Recreational fisheries, American Samoa framework measure on large fishing vessel area closure, blue shark assessment, status of amendment 9 regarding shark conservation and management, turtle management (including status of draft EIS on the FMP), seabird management, management of highly migratory fish stocks, FMP five-year review

DEC. 1 Bottomfish Fisheries: Observer program, new-permit entry criteria for Mau Zone*, status of litigation against the fishery; **Crustaceans Fisheries:** Research and stock assessment activities and plans, experimental fishery in NWHI plan, FMP five-year review, status of litigation against the fishery, overcapitalization of NWHI fishery; **Program Planning:** Draft amendment to include Northern Mariana Islands and US Pacific Island possessions in the Bottomfish, Precious Coral and Crustacean FMPs*; Congressional legislation, marine debris, Palmyra Atoll area closure, WPacFIN and Fisheries Data Coordinating Committee, bioprospecting; **Administrative Matters:** Advisory panel appointments

In preparation for the 107th Council Meeting, the Scientific and Statistical Committee will convene October 10–12 at the Council office. The SSC will address precious coral, crustacean and bottomfish issues on Tuesday; pelagic issues on Wednesday; and ecosystem and habitat and other issues on Thursday.

For more information on these meetings, please contact the Council or view its Web site at www.wpcouncil.org.

* public hearing on the issue to be held during the meeting

Guthertz Elected to Chair Council

Judith Guthertz

During the 106th Council meeting July 13 in Honolulu, members elected Judith Guthertz to serve as its next chairperson. The term, which commenced August 10, 2000, is for one year.

Guthertz is the first woman to be elected chair in the 24-year history of the Council. As a Council member representing the Territory of Guam for the past five years, she has articulated concerns on a variety of fishery issues, including the establishment of the Sea Grant Consortium for the Western Pacific Region, smuggling of foreign nationals into Guam on foreign fishing vessels and jurisdictional issues between federal agencies and local governments. Guthertz has also strongly supported self-sustaining island economies.

"It is my belief that US Pacific islanders should be assisted in developing their own potential to commercially fish in their waters rather than to allow foreign countries to continue claiming these assets," Guthertz says.

Guthertz is the acting president of the University of Guam and a professor of public administration and criminal justice at its College of Business and Public Administration. She has previously served the Territory of Guam as director of public safety, acting chief of police and an elected member of the Guam Board of Education.

Council to Refocus on Recreational Fisheries

When the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council first convened in 1976, the commercial fishing industry in its jurisdiction was on the decline. Hawaii's traditional sampan-style longline vessels, known as flag vessels, were being reduced from about 50 in the 1950s to about 14 by the early 1980s. When the tuna cannery in Honolulu closed in 1984, the pole-and-line aku fleet dwindled from 15 to 20 boats to six active vessels.

In the midst of this contraction of commercial fishing, the Council developed its first pelagic fishery management plan (FMP), which aimed at improving catches of billfish, for recreational, charter and commercial fishermen. (Under the Magnuson Act, tunas could not be managed until 1992.) The FMP for Pacific Billfish Fisheries was completed in 1981 but was rejected because, among other things, it didn't demonstrate that the proposed measures, essentially eliminating foreign fishing in the Western Pacific Region's exclusive economic zone, would improve domestic landings of billfish. The plan was also deemed insufficient as it did not include other species besides billfish. In 1985, the Council drafted a preliminary FMP for Billfish and Associated Species, which aimed to promote domestic recreational and commercial catches for billfish, mahimahi, wahoo and oceanic sharks. The revised FMP for Pelagic Fisheries was approved in 1986.

With the renaissance of the Hawaii longline fishery in 1987–88, the Council began to focus more on commercial fishing. Between 1987 and 1989 the longliners operating in the state jumped from an estimated 40 to 50 vessels to 80. By 1991, the fleet nearly doubled again to 150, with about one-third of the vessels targeting swordfish. Five out of the seven amendments to the Pelagics FMP completed in the early 1990s were concerned with aspects of this fishery.

The Council began to reorient efforts toward recreational fishing in 1999 with the formation of the Recreational Fisheries Data Task Force. The Council's primary concern is that Hawaii recreational fisheries data required to effectively manage highly migratory species is not being captured by any of the regular data collection programs under the Western Pacific Fishery Information Network. The task force has met five times and is working to implement four recommendations it has developed:

Meta-database to compile all past surveys conducted in Hawaii, as well as club archives and tournament data, to get some sense of recreational fishery trends in Hawaii. Funding of about $80,000/year has been approved through the Pelagic Fisheries Research Program.

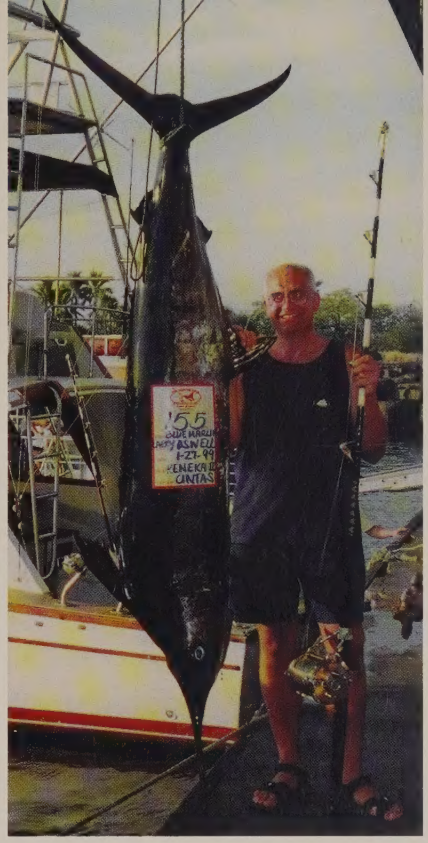
Rapid assessment mail-phone survey to provide an initial estimate of the total recreational pelagic fisheries production in Hawaii. The project would include an educational component. Cost for survey alone is $100,000.

Comprehensive creel intercept survey for Hawaii to identify recreational fish catches. Expansion of the current Hawaii creel survey to encompass the whole state (including boat landings) would cost $1.5 million.

Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey reestablished in the Western Pacific Region to provide bimonthly estimates of marine recreational fishing effort and catch for Hawaii and to survey the fisheries operating out of American Samoa, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. Estimated cost about $1 million.

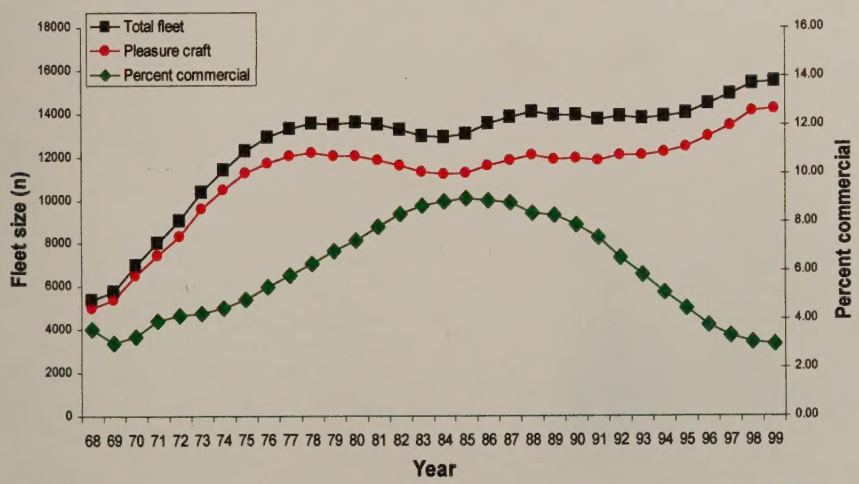
The Council's reemphasis on recreational fishing is expected to be further enhanced with the restructuring of the Council's advisory bodies for the 2001–2002 term so as to include a Recreational and Charter Fisheries Advisory Sub-panel.

"To make the management process work, recreational marine anglers need to participate and give their inputs to the Recreational and Charter Fisheries Advisory Sub-panel," urges Richard Shiroma, chair of the Recreational Fisheries Data Task Force.



The Council comes full circle as it refocuses efforts on recreational catches of billfish and other species. Qualified fishermen and other interested persons can assist by participating in the Recreational Fisheries Data Task Force and the Recreational and Charter Fisheries Advisory Sub-panel for the 2000–2001 term.

Total number of small vessels in Hawaii



The Hawaii recreational fishery expanded markedly in the 1970s and continues to thrive. On the other hand, commercial fishing licenses for small vessels increased during the 1960s and 1970s but declined in the 1980s and 1990s to previous levels.

COUNCIL CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

23–25 National Fisheries Institute Annual Convention, Los Angeles

27 Protected Species Workshop for the Hawaii Longline Fishery, Honolulu

OCTOBER

2–11 United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Technical Consultation and joint FAO/International Monetary Organization Ad Hoc Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing; Rome

10–12 75th Scientific and Statistical Committee Meeting, Council Conference Room, Honolulu

16–20 Islands VI Conference: "Small Islands in the Third Millennium," Isle of Skye, Scotland

23–25 International Fishing Industry Safety and Health Conference, Woods Hole, Mass.

23–27 9th International Coral Reef Symposium, Bali International Convention Center, Bali, Indonesia

NOVEMBER

1 Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Committee meeting, Hawaii

6–8 Climate and Coastal Workshop, East-West Center, Honolulu

6–9 International Fishers Forum on Solving the Incidental Capture of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries, The Heritage Hotel, Auckland, NZ

8–10 Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee meeting, New York City

11 Honolulu Harbor Festival, Hawaii Maritime Center and Aloha Tower Marketplace, Honolulu

12–14 National Fisheries Institute New Products Conference, Orlando, Fla.

16–18 Fish Expo 2000, Seattle, Wash.

17 Hawaii Marine and Coastal Zone Management Advisory Group, State Office Tower, Room 204, Honolulu

28–Dec. 1 107th Council Meeting, Ala Moana Hotel, Honolulu

DECEMBER

5–7 Pelagic Fisheries Research Program Principal Investigators Meeting, East-West Center, Honolulu

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Vice Chairs	Isabel Lujan (Guam)
	Jack Tenorio (Northern Mariana Islands)
	Frank Farm (Hawaii)
	Aitofele Sunia (American Samoa)
Executive Director	Kitty M. Simonds

Ho and Lent Join Council

Bryan Y. Y. Ho has been appointed by the US Secretary of Commerce to represent Hawaii commercial fishery interests on the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council. He replaces Council Member Jim Cook, whose term ended Aug. 10. Ho manages three commercial longline fishing vessels and is president and sole shareholder of a law corporation that specializes in admiralty and maritime law.

Bryan Y. Y. Ho

"During the course of my practice, I have personally witnessed the ongoing conflict between industry's need to fill a public demand for fresh seafood products and make a profit for their efforts over the long term and environmental concerns to preserve a fragile limited resource for future generations," Ho notes. "I look forward to helping the Council work towards cohesive solutions for the future."

Rebecca Lent, PhD, is the Southwest Regional Administrator for the National Marine Fisheries Service in Long Beach, Calif. Her seat on the Council was formerly held by Rod McInnis, then acting Southwest Regional Administrator for NMFS. In her present capacity, Lent oversees the management and monitoring of federal fisheries of the US West Coast, Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and US Pacific Island possessions. Previously Lent was the chief of the Highly Migratory Species Division at NOAA fisheries headquarters where she managed the controversial issues surrounding bluefin tuna, swordfish, sharks and marlin in the Atlantic Ocean.

Rebecca Lent